

MARVEL

017

[dest_]
[_iny_]
[_of_X]



DUGGAN
CASSARA
GURU-eFX





Hypothetically, if I asked you to trust
me with everything that you are...
would you do that?

-- FORGE



[x-men_[0.00].....]
[x-men_[0.17].....]
[x-men_alpha.]



IC X-MEN

THE FUTURE COMES TO HAUNT US

The post-human Children of the Vault are being fed a false reality to keep them satisfied until Forge can complete his mission: Rescue Darwin from the Vault. Utilizing a suit comprised of Caliban and Mystique's DNA, he has disguised himself as Perro in order to infiltrate the temporal accelerator.

But when Forge thought he'd finally found Darwin, he was shocked to discover the comatose body of Wolverine, thought lost in their initial incursion into the Vault.



[JEAN GREY]



[SYNCH]



[ICEMAN]



[HAVOK]



[CYCLOPS]



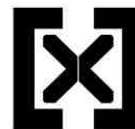
[MAGIK]



[FORGE]



[FIRESTAR]



Gerry Duggan/Writer
Joshua Cassara/Artist
GURU-eFX/Color Artist
VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer
Tom Muller w/ Jay Bowen/Design

Martin Coccio & Jesus Aburtov
/Cover Artists

VC's Clayton Cowles/Production
Lauren Amaro/Associate Editor
Jordan D. White/Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

Russell Dauterman &
Matthew Wilson [Trading Card]
/Variant Cover Artists

X-Men created by
Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

© 2022 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

A short time ago, inside the temporally accelerated confines of...the Vault.

Wolverine is not the mission, Caliban.

So we're just leaving her here?

For now.

I was assured she was killed in action so Synch could escape with the scouting of the place.

It's all screwed up. I thought the Five only accidentally resurrected one mutant, not two. And *Darwin* is the mission.

Forge, you told me that you got my permission to use my powers and mind like this because you needed me to help people.

I WANT YOU TO HELP HER!

You don't exist! Not really! You can't tell me what to do.

I bundled your mind and your DNA and I wove them into this suit. You're a tool--

--and I am the craftsman!

Sorry, sleep for now.

BOOP



Dammit.



Sorry.

Everyone that has ever come to me has always misused my curse. Including you.



Don't say that. Your power is a gift.

No. No, it's not when it's misused.



Just tell me one thing, Caliban.

Do you sense Darwin at all?

It could mean the survival of our species if--



I marvel at your hubris, mutant.

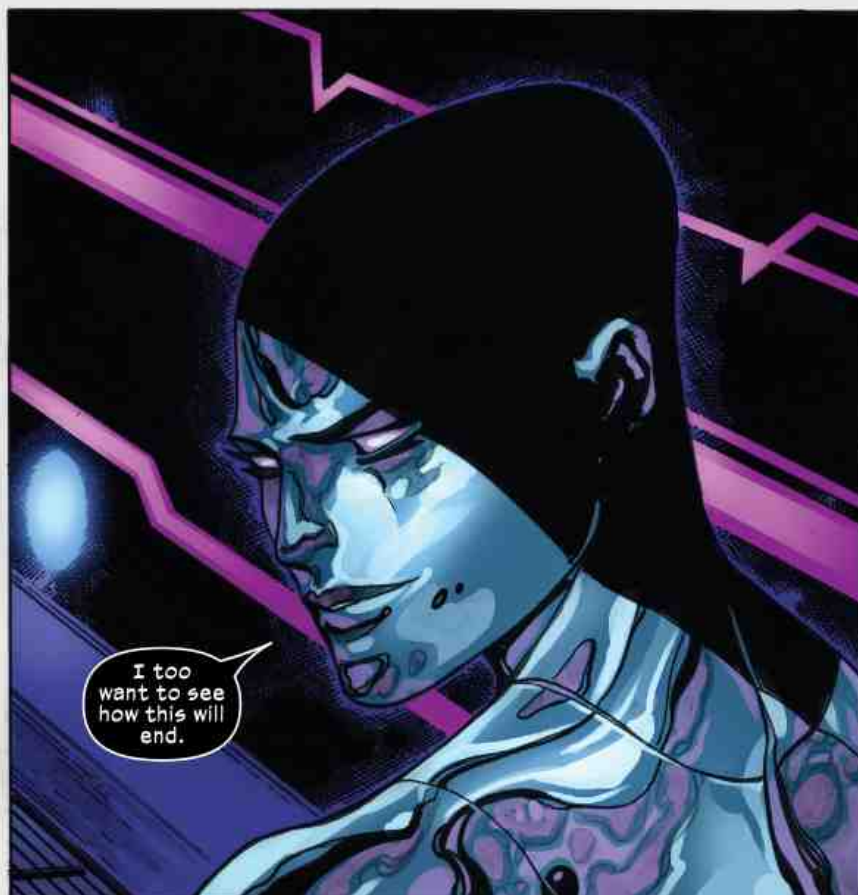
Oh, *@#%.















...it's
real.

This is exactly
how Krakoa looks in
my imagination.









Goddess.

Well, you've done enough for your people. Let's get you home and upload you into a new body.

Your good work is already done, friend. Perhaps my shell was holding me back? Now...I can be in many places at once.

I'm still learning about the Vault, and I'm not quite ready to leave yet.



The temporal flux of the Vault was a curse when I had a shell, but now that I'm free, the time I have in here is a blessing.

There are millions of people here. I've learned so much by watching them. I wish to continue to learn... I also wish to see what happens.

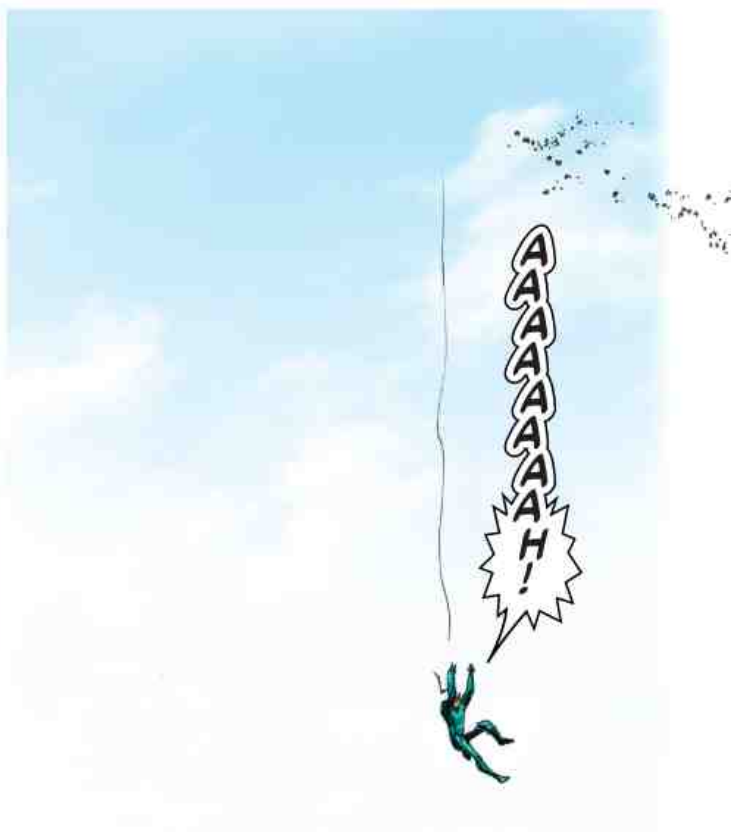


You're a brave mutant, Darwin.

I hope we meet again.

I'm sure of it.

Goodbye, Forge.



AAAAAAH!



The present.
Outside the
vault.

I'm
here!

What is
it?! What's
wrong?

Why are
you looking at me
like that?



Man,
you're a bundle
of nerves.

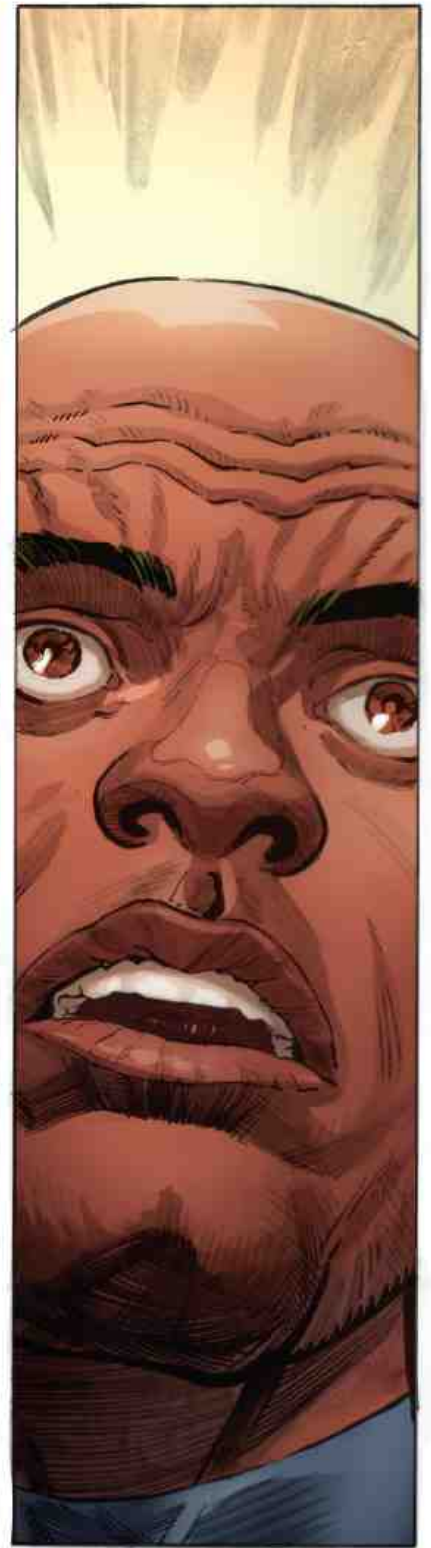
Does
something have
to be wrong all
the time?

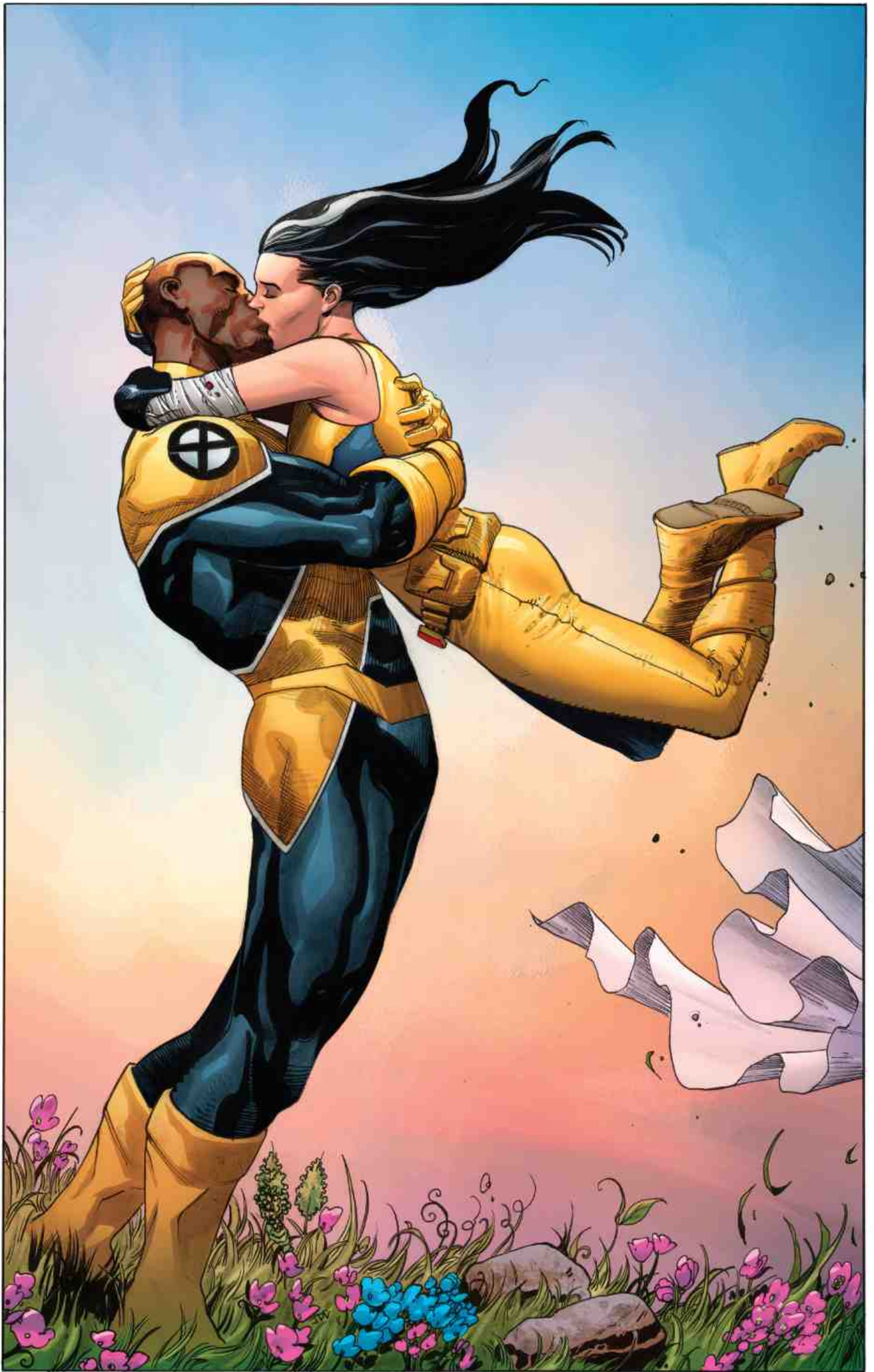
Today is a
good day, and
it's not even
over.

Where's
Havok?

He's fine.
Don't worry
about that
right now.

So
why am I...
here?







Or not.

Time to go home.



Okay, our Vault pacification systems are fully operational.

As long as Krakoa is functioning, that place is on ice.

And now to give this suit the funeral it deserves.



You okay, Forge?

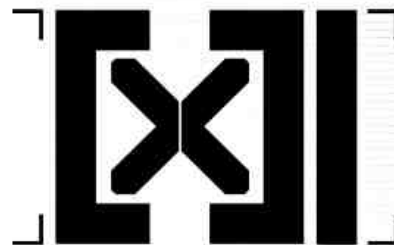
You look like you saw a ghost.

Two, if you can believe it.



I'll tell you all about it, but first...





MEDICAL REPORT:

PATIENT FILE: #14

RE: Post-resurrection analysis of Synch [Everett Thomas]

[Krakoa].....[MED]
[.....].....[FIL]

SUBJECT: ADDITION TO THE MEDICAL FILES OF FORGE:

I'll keep this update short and sweet. Size matters. Forge returned from the Vault and needed some time in the healing gardens. He was keen on skipping his diagnostics with me, but I had X-Force in my corner, and we have protocols for anyone returning from the Vault now.

"Alpha Wolverine" The Laura Kinney that remained behind in the vault had a Cerebro backup similar in size to Synch's when he emerged and was "caught" by Xavier just before his body's passing.

Today, Forge's Cerebro backup was measured in Zettabytes. I can't overstate how odd that is, considering his monstrous suit made use of Tempo's mutant gift and allowed him to effectively live inside a bubble that kept him from the temporal storm in the Vault.

His mind should have been almost the same size as when he went in. Now Forge's backups are larger than some of our most powerful telepaths, and that makes sense when his gift is to create.

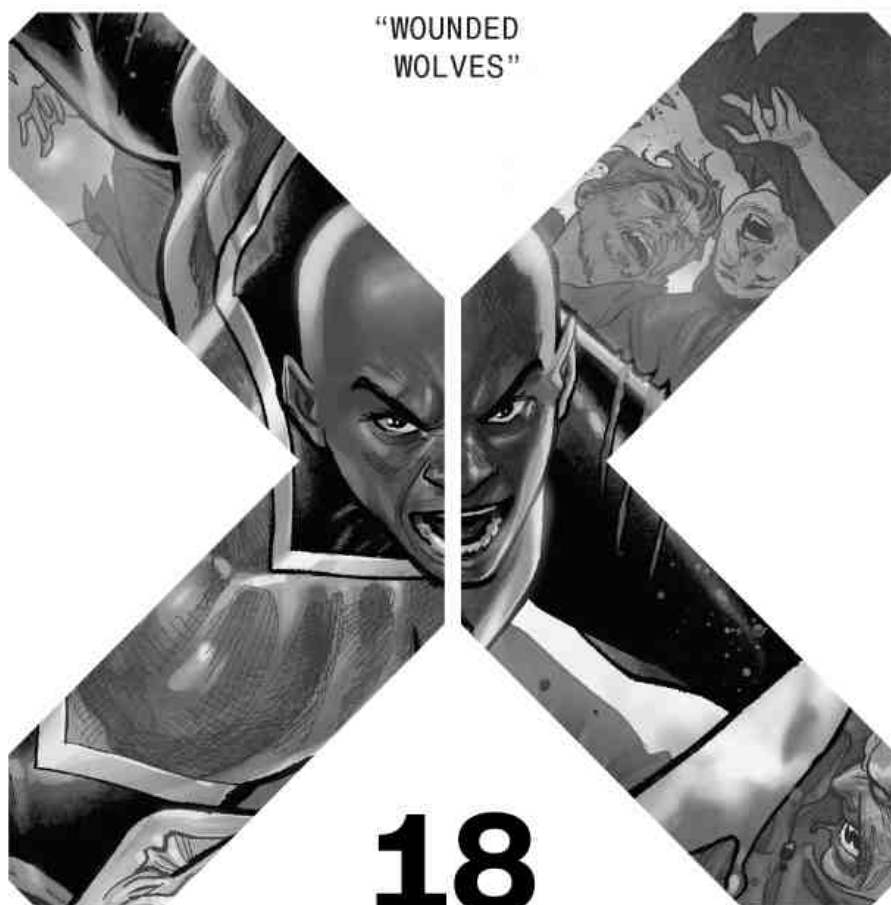
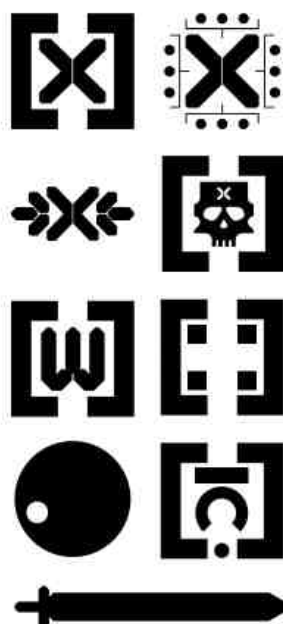
Nonetheless, this is yet another anomaly to track and I've asked for estimations of future back-ups of his mind from Cerebro.

Good night from the office of Dr. Celia Reyes.

P.S. -- just kidding, before I could get out of here for the night I've just been told Cerebro backed him up again and the size was inside the expected strike zone.

When I asked them to compare with the abnormally large scan, it was in fact back down to the expected size. Either the massive data spike was an error or an anomaly, and I'd like to know which -- I don't love enduring mysteries.

ic: NEXT



ISSUE:

X-Force #34

➤ X-Men #17

New Mutants #32

X-Terminators #3

Immortal X-Men #9

Marauders #9

X-Force #35

X-Men Red #9

Dark Web: X-Men #1

Deadpool #2

Legion of X #8

Wolverine #28

